UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/424
24 September 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/SPANISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 26

ZONE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/19 of 25 November 1991, entitled "Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic", in which it called upon all States to cooperate in the promotion of the objectives established in the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and to refrain from any action inconsistent with those objectives, as well as with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the Organization, particularly actions which might create or aggravate situations of tension and potential conflict in the region. The Assembly affirmed the importance of the South Atlantic to global maritime and commercial transactions and its determination to preserve the region for all activities protected by relevant international law, including the freedom of navigation in the high seas.

2. The General Assembly welcomed the actions of the States of the zone towards fulfilling the objectives of the second meeting of States of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, held at Abuja, Nigeria from 25 to 29 June 1990 and expressed its appreciation for the assistance that the Office of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had extended towards the convening of seminars of a group of experts at Brazzaville from 12 to 15 June 1990 and at Montevideo from 3 to 6 April 1991, which were devoted to a review of the development and implementation of the legal regime established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and requested the Office and UNDP to continue to provide assistance for the implementation of follow-up measures agreed upon at Montevideo.

3. Also in its resolution 46/19, the General Assembly welcomed the resolution adopted by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean at its twelfth session, on cooperation between the Latin American nuclear-weapon-free zone and the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic. The Assembly, further, expressed its appreciation for the success achieved by Namibia in the consolidation of its independence and called upon the international community to render necessary assistance to Namibia. The Assembly noted with interest the hope expressed by the countries of the zone to welcome in the near future a non-racial democratic South Africa into the community of South Atlantic States.

4. The General Assembly also emphasized the imperative need to conserve the environment and the marine resources of the region and stressed the historical importance of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The Assembly also expressed support for the determination of the States of the zone that technical cooperation among developing countries be recognized as activities that can be financed by UNDP, and requested the United Nations as well as other relevant international bodies to assist the States of the zone in the realization of their needs in this regard, at their request. It reaffirmed the aspirations of the States of the zone to make it an active

instrument for fostering human rights, fundamental freedoms, racial equality, justice and liberty as integral elements of peace, development and cooperation at national and regional levels. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to keep the implementation of its resolution 41/11 of 27 October 1986 under review and to submit a report to it at its forty-seventh session, taking into account, inter alia, the views expressed by Member States.

5. Pursuant to resolution 46/19, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale on 14 April 1992 to the Governments of the States Members of the United Nations, requesting their views on the implementation of the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic.

6. As at 20 August 1992, two Governments and one United Nations organization had replied to the Secretary-General. Any replies and notifications that may be received at a later date will be published as addenda to the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

COLOMBIA

[Original: Spanish]

[26 May 1992]

1. Although Colombia is not one of the States of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, it supports General Assembly resolution 46/19, and especially the provisions relating to cooperation within the region aimed at maintaining peace and promoting development in the framework of conservation of the environment.

2. It also supports the paragraphs of the resolution concerning the transfer of hazardous, toxic and nuclear wastes into the region and considers it appropriate to establish monitoring mechanisms for that purpose.

3. It should be noted that Colombia, as an Atlantic coastal State, has been following the development of this zone with great interest.

DOMINICA

[Original: English]

[29 July 1992]

The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica supports General Assembly resolution 46/19 of 25 November 1991, entitled "Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic".

III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Namibia

1. At its thirty-eighth session, in June 1991, the Governing Council of UNDP decided to extend special assistance to Namibia equivalent to that given a least developed country. As such Namibia will benefit from enhanced allocation of UNDP resources in the future.

South Africa

2. The United Nations Development Programme shares the hope for a non-racial South Africa. That would make it possible for UNDP support to liberation movements to be formalized as assistance to South Africa.

Angola and Liberia

3. In Angola, following the peace agreement, elections are scheduled for 30 September 1992. The United Nations, through the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the Department of Economic and Social Development of the Secretariat, is maintaining the implementation of the peace agreement, including the supervision of the elections and demobilization of soldiers. The United Nations Development Programme has provided seed money of $530,000 for that and is currently coordinating cost-sharing arrangements among major donors to finance the process.

4. In Liberia, UNDP has been assisting the emergency humanitarian operations from the very outset by providing the services of the Special Coordinator and other administrative staff, in addition to meeting logistic support and management costs. Together with his team of UNDP international and national colleagues, the Special Coordinator has been leading the emergency relief operations carried out throughout the country by the United Nations system (i.e., the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Food Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization). Four operational centres have been established in rural areas to enhance the delivery capacity of both United Nations and non-governmental organization programmes to populations with the greatest need. Following the peace agreement, general elections are to be held in September and UNDP will provide the necessary technical assistance.

Toxic waste disposal

5. Tens of thousands of unusable pesticides have accumulated in Africa and have become a source of great environmental concern. These are pesticides that can no longer be used because they have deteriorated or because their use has been banned or is no longer desirable. The total quantity of this hazardous waste in Africa is estimated to be between 20,000 and 60,000 metric tons.

6. Unwanted stocks include organo-chlorines (e.g., dieldrin, DDT, HCH) which have either been banned or are now considered undesirable. Some of these stocks are 20 to 30 years old. Estimates suggest that there are 500,000 litres of dieldrin stored in various locations in Africa. Another important group of unwanted pesticides are organo-phosphates (e.g., fenitrothion). Storage facilities are poor, or in some cases, non-existent. Many examples can be found of corroded drums lying in the open air, gradually leaking their contents into the soil and groundwater, thereby causing severe pollution and forming a serious threat to human health, water supplies and to ecosystem functioning. These stocks require immediate containment and subsequent safe disposal.

7. Disposal must be carried out in a manner safe for human health and the environment. Appropriate disposal facilities are, however, not available in Africa.